

Testimony of Ellen McCormick of  
ConnFACT (CT Families Against Chemical Trespass)  
Before the Connecticut General Assembly  
Public Health Committee  
February 28, 2012

Testimony in support of SB 126, An Act Concerning Children's Exposure to  
Chemicals

Good afternoon Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and honorable members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Ellen McCormick and my testimony is in support of SB#126. I live in Weston, CT and I am here representing ConnFACT (CT Families Against Chemical Trespass). We are the parent organization of GMOfreeCT and I think you might remember our constituents from last year's GMO labeling bill. They're a group with a tremendous amount of perseverance as many of them have children who have been affected by these chemicals.

The issues in front of us today are not significantly different from those in GMO labeling. Both issues involve exposing our most vulnerable citizens to toxic chemicals and unnecessarily. The scientific studies come in every day now that correlate exposure to toxic chemicals in consumer products, beginning in the womb, with the rise in many serious diseases we are seeing in this country.

Protecting our mothers of child-bearing age and our children from toxic chemicals is URGENT. It's not something that should languish in our legislature and it is not something that is up for debate any longer. It is so! The scientific studies prove it!! And now it is your job to pass this bill to protect them. They are in your hands!

There is a 20% rise in children's brain cancer and leukemia since the 1970s.

There has been a rise in adult cancers – breast, testicular and prostate among them.

There has been a dramatic rise in learning and behavioral disorders including a ten-fold increase in autism spectrum disorder over the last 15 years and ADHD affecting over 2 million children in the U.S.

There has been a rise in reproductive disorders with 40% more women experiencing difficulty conceiving and maintaining a pregnancy in 2002 than did in 1982.

There have been significant rises in asthma, insulin-resistance and diabetes.

The chemical industry has proven time and time again that they are only interested in chemicals and not the lives of the people who use them. They are only driven by profit and greed.

I'm certain the profits of chemical companies and consumer products, which is what it's all about for them, should not trump the health of our families and in particular our children and women of child-bearing age. As a result of dragging your feet each generation's DNA is getting worse. When I was growing up there was very little infertility. Now, it's rampant. Pass this bill and you will be protecting future generations.

We have a Right to Know what's in our products so we can determine for ourselves if we're going to use a product or not. Companies shouldn't be putting these chemicals in our products to begin with now that they know they're harmful!! But since they insist on using them we need to protect ourselves from their irresponsibility. Let's reward those who are being responsible and seeking good solutions to their health problems.

As in the case of GMOs, other countries ban certain chemicals in products or label them if made for children. We have an obligation to do the same.

If you don't want to have the multitude of phone calls and emails from our constituency just pass this law and save yourselves the noise. Please don't ask me how many we are now because it grows every day. Just remember that we're a reasonable but noisy bunch that love making phone calls and sending emails.

Good Luck making your decision and thank you for allowing us to give testimonies in support of this Bill.